

ESEA Flexibility Waiver Renewal Process and Getting Ready for PARCC



District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education

Dr. Amy Maisterra, Interim State Superintendent of Education

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New in Principle 1

Student
Learning

- General updates and reporting on the Office of State Superintendent of Education's (OSSE) work for continuous improvement.

Great
Teachers

- Outlining the assessment transition: includes the list of tests and description of professional development and technical assistance plans.

Great
Schools

- Math testing: amendment to allow high school level course testing in middle school.

New in Principle 2

Student Learning

- Updating on the improvements we made to the report cards and the equity reports.

Great Teachers

- Reframing the State System of Support (was not fully framed in the current version).
- Restating that 2015-2016 will be the first year where the science assessment will be used for accountability.

Great Schools

- Describing the state intervention model (The Learning Support Network) for Priority schools that did not make progress.

New in Principle 2: Accountability

Student
Learning

Different phases of the accountability amendment:

Pausing school classification– Removing high stakes decisions from the first administration of PARCC.

Accountability 2.0 – The first phase would include the new academic achievement and growth measures that are aligned to the new assessment (new School Index Score and additional academic measures that we will choose to use), as well as additional technical improvements.

Great
Teachers

Accountability 2.1 – Building on lessons learned and feedback that OSSE received from stakeholders throughout the three years of administering the state’s accountability system, we will leverage the Waiver amendment process to think about ways to strengthen the school accountability and support system.

Great
Schools

Due to the complexity of the discussion, and the need for substantive engagement, we expect the process to extend beyond the March 31 renewal application deadline. The larger scale changes to the District’s accountability system will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) in a later amendment.

New in Principle 3

Student
Learning

Great
Teachers

Great
Schools

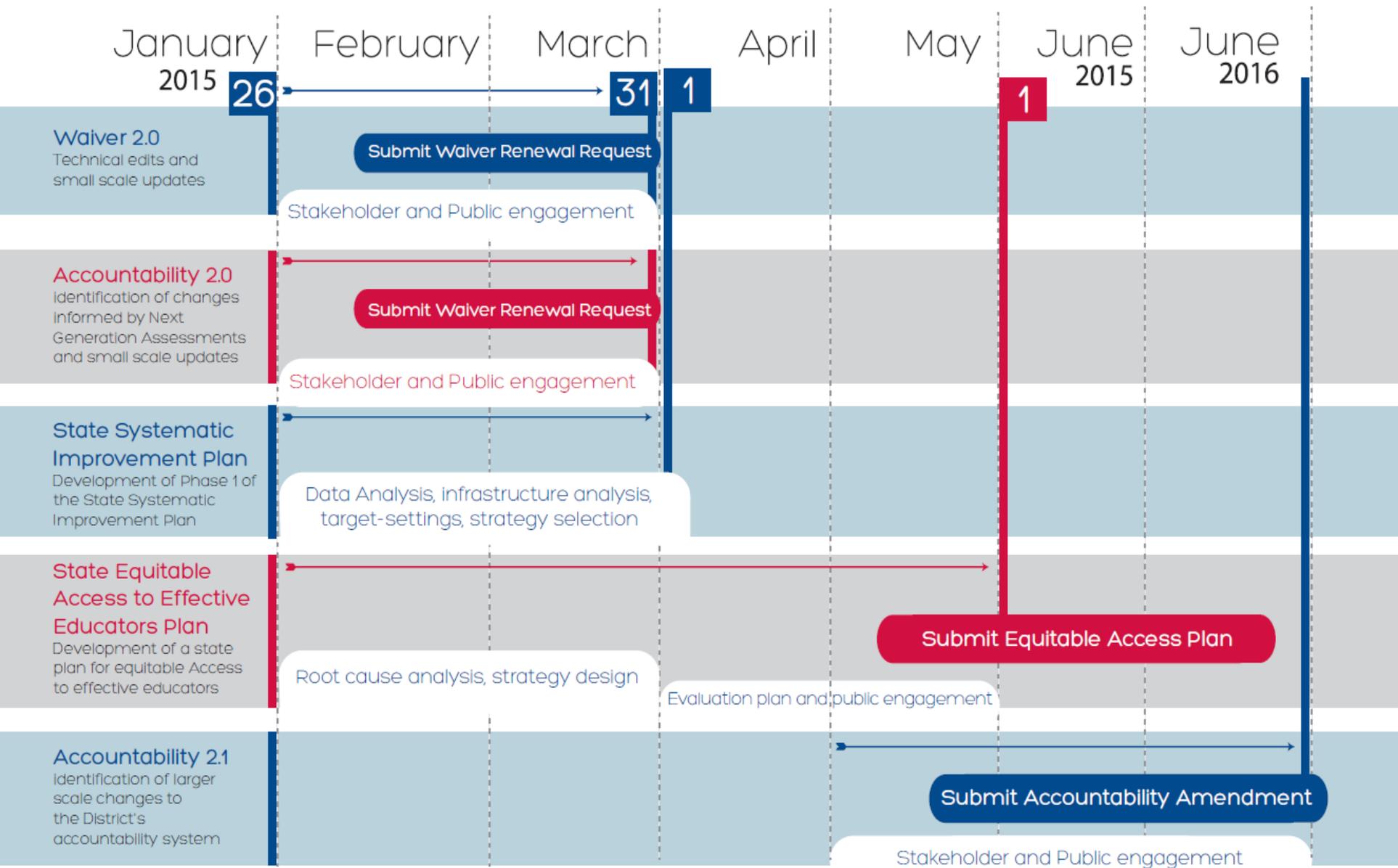
- Pausing the requirement to use state assessment-based student growth for teacher evaluations this school year (while continuing to report on it).
- Introduces the new state teacher evaluation model - new support for Local Education Agencies (LEAs).
- Reports on plans for professional development of English Language Learner (ELL) teachers.

ESEA Waiver Application Update

- OSSE began engagement on development of the ESEA Waiver renewal application, the plan for equitable access to excellent teachers and the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) on January 26, 2015.
- Since then, OSSE has used multiple means of communication and engagement to maximize feedback and input from stakeholders at all levels.

Waiver Renewal and Equitable Access Plan

Project Timeline



OSSE's Engagement Strategy

Public Meetings

January 26 Opening Session.

OSSE visits schools and community: 11 meetings scheduled.

Live website provides information on all meetings, materials and feedback.

Online Engagement

Waiver draft is open for public comments through March 13.

Webinars are offered as an alternative to meetings (ESEA Waiver, Equitable Access and SSIP).

Working Groups

Working group on accountability convened.

Working group on equitable access convened.

In-Person Overviews

Waiver walk-throughs with OSSE staff are being offered to all LEAs and various organizations

Focus groups with teachers and principals on equitable access are scheduled.

Main Feedback Thus Far

Waiver 2.0

Interest in math testing amendment

Support for pausing school classifications and student growth in teacher evaluations

Accountability

Stakeholder request that all of the substantive changes should be discussed- need to begin in the summer (after PARCC admin)

Concerns with including early education in accountability

Equitable Access

Main issues raised : licensure, school leadership, school environment, evaluation and compensation

GETTING READY FOR PARCC

Assessment Transition

Implementing Next Generation Assessments

The Waiver will be updated to reflect the change from past assessments to the next generation assessments.

SUBJECT	PAST	FUTURE
Reading	DC CAS Reading	PARCC English Language Arts (ELA)
Math	DC CAS Math	PARCC Math
Writing	DC CAS Composition	PARCC ELA
Science	DC CAS Science	DC NGSS Assessment
Alternate	DC CAS Alt	NCSC and DC Alt Science

DC CAS – DC Comprehensive Assessment System | PARCC - Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers |
NGSS – Next Generation Science Standards | NCSC – National Center and State Collaborative

PARCC Administration Overview

- Students will test for 2-5 days in each window.
 - Performance Based Assessment (PBA) March 2 – May 8
 - End of Year (EOY) April 13 – June 5
- Testing administered in 60-90 minute units.
- Test units are timed.*
- 2015 Test Data expected back in Fall 2015.
- 5 performance levels, with top 2 representing on-track for college and career readiness.

*DC CAS was an untimed assessment

PARCC Testing Timeline

- PARCC testing began in Ohio (40,000+ tests earlier this week) and will begin soon in New Jersey and Colorado.
- PARCC PBA administration in the District begins in March with 7 LEAs starting testing on March 2nd.
- Most LEAs in the District begin testing on March 23rd.
- PBA and EOY testing will continue through June 5th.
- We are learning from issues in other states and proactively communicating solutions/best practices to the District's LEAs.

PARCC PBA & Testing Timeline

- PBA Timeline

- March 2nd: 7 LEAs will begin testing
- March 7th: DCPS begins testing
- March 23rd to April 3rd: *Most DC students will be completing the PBA portion of PARCC during this period*
- PBA closes May 1st

- EOY Timeline

- April 13th: EOY opens April 13
- April 20th: 2 LEAs begin testing the EOY
- May 11th – June 1st: *Most DC students will be completing the EOY portion of PARCC during this period*
- EOY closes June 5th

OSSE's PARCC Support Model

- Next Generation Assessment (NGA) Ambassadors
 - Ambassadors assigned to every LEA.
 - Targeted, personalized outreach of new information, deadlines, and deliverables.
 - Customized support for LEA-specific questions and needs, with 48-hour response time.
 - Tier 2 Ambassadors as content experts to respond swiftly to LEA questions and needs (e.g., accessibility, administration, technology).
 - Tracking and capturing LEA questions and needs to produce a running FAQ on the OSSE website.

Test Administration & Integrity Supports

- February 2 & 3, full-day Test Coordinator training provided to over 400 LEA Assessment Coordinators, School Monitors and Technology Coordinators
 - Test Integrity Training
 - Pearson Access Next Test Administration Training
 - Pearson Access Next Technical Overview Training
- Weekly PARCC Administrative Bulletin to LEA Assessment Coordinators
 - PARCC Administrative Updates
 - DC-Specific Policy and Procedure Updates

Accessibility & Accommodations Supports

- Hosted two PARCC Accommodations and Accessibility Features webinars for Special Education coordinators and teachers.
- Updates to OSSE's Special Education Data System (SEDS) to include PARCC-specific features.
- Targeted support to LEAs for completing the PARCC Personal Needs Profile (PNP)
 - OSSE webinar on Personal Needs Profile for Special Populations this week
 - Ongoing technical assistance in place for LEAs/staff

Tech Readiness Supports

- Over 90% of students in the District will take PARCC on computers.*
- LEAs have access to the PARCC online training site with modules for test administrators and technology coordinators.
- OSSE hosted two half-day trainings on technology and will offer additional training via webinar next week.
- All schools have access to Pearson phone technical support at every step of the tech configuration process.
- LEAs have been **strongly encouraged** to complete infrastructure trials prior to testing as a “dress rehearsal.”

*LEAs were given flexibility to choose paper vs. computer test administration

Supports During Testing

- Test integrity hotline, staffed by OSSE Assessment Team, for LEAs to immediately report issues related to test security.
- OSSE technical support (phone-in and in person) as an additional resource to the phone-in support provided by Pearson.
- OSSE-staffed escalation path to Pearson support for tricky issues within Pearson Access Next.
- OSSE monitors will be dispatched to schools to ensure test integrity and implementation of approved School Test Plan.

Support for Parents & Community Stakeholders

- Community meetings at schools throughout the city.
- PARCC Parent Resources hosted on the OSSE website.
- Public Service Announcements planned for local radio stations throughout PARCC testing season.
- Monthly mailings distributed to LEAs with information on assessments.

Ongoing Test Development & Policy Work

- OSSE Staff participate in the following PARCC Operational Working Groups (OWGs):
 - State Leads
 - Test Administration & Systems (Co-Chair)
 - Accommodations & Accessibility Features
 - ELA/Literacy & Mathematics
- Recruiting District teachers and administrators to participate in the following:
 - Rangefinding
 - Standard Setting / Performance-Level Setting
 - Item Review
 - Bias and Sensitivity Review
 - Data Review

PARCC Resources for Parents & Students

- OSSE on PARCC (available in many languages):
<http://osse.dc.gov/publication/guide-new-parcc-assessment-parents>
- Tutorials: <http://parcc.pearson.com/tutorial/>
- Practice Tests (now also available in printable format!):
<http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/>
- Sample Items: <http://parcc.pearson.com/sample-items/>

QUESTIONS?

For more information, contact osse.communications@dc.gov